



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Amendment

LCO No. 7974



Offered by:

SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.

REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1101

File No. 620

Cal. No. 334

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD."

1 Strike section 6 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

2 "Sec. 6. Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and
5 operate a child care subsidy program to increase the availability,
6 affordability and quality of child care services for families with a
7 parent or caretaker who (1) is working or attending high school, or
8 [who] (2) receives cash assistance under the temporary family
9 assistance program from the Department of Social Services and is
10 participating in an approved education, training or other job
11 preparation activity. Services available under the child care program
12 shall include the provision of child care subsidies for children under
13 the age of thirteen or children under the age of nineteen with special
14 needs. The Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain

15 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer
16 such program within the existing budgetary resources available. The
17 office shall issue a notice on the office's Internet web site [and shall
18 provide written notice to recipients of program benefits and to service
19 providers] any time the office closes the program to new applications,
20 changes eligibility requirements, changes program benefits or makes
21 any other change to the program's status or terms, provided the office
22 shall not be required to issue such notice when the office expands
23 program eligibility. Any change in the office's acceptance of new
24 applications, eligibility requirements, program benefits or any other
25 change to the program's status or terms for which the office is required
26 to give notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective until
27 thirty days after the office issues such notice.

28 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
29 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
30 income up to fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except the
31 commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to seventy-five
32 per cent of the state-wide median income, (2) upon the request of the
33 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income
34 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after
35 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are
36 eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) on and after March
37 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per
38 cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and recipients
39 who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family
40 assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance
41 with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
42 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

43 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
44 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards
45 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility
46 system with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary
47 family assistance who are employed or engaged in employment

48 activities under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First"
49 program, (B) working families whose temporary family assistance was
50 discontinued not more than five years prior to the date of application
51 for the child care subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income
52 working families, (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted
53 from the Department of Children and Families and who are granted a
54 waiver of income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
55 this section, (F) working families who are at risk of welfare
56 dependency, and (G) any household with a child or children
57 participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership federal
58 grant program for a period of up to twelve months based on Early
59 Head Start eligibility criteria; (2) health and safety standards for child
60 care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system
61 for child care services which account for differences in the age of the
62 child, number of children in the family, the geographic region and type
63 of care provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and
64 type of services provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers,
65 successful completion of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or
66 credentialing of child care directors and administrators, and program
67 accreditation; (4) supplemental payment for special needs of the child
68 and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process
69 for providers which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained
70 at levels which permit equal access to a variety of child care settings;
71 (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an
72 administrative appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process
73 to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions
74 and recover overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and
75 payment eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care
76 subsidy experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other
77 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy
78 program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in
79 subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with
80 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be
81 issued annually by the office to the Governor and the General
82 Assembly in accordance with section 17b-733. Such action will include,

83 but not be limited to, family income, age of child, region of state and
84 length of time on such waiting list.

85 (d) [(1)] Not later than [January 1, 2011] July 1, 2015, an applicant
86 determined to be eligible for program benefits by the Commissioner of
87 Early Childhood shall remain eligible for such benefits for a period [of
88 not less than eight months from the date that such applicant is
89 determined to be eligible, provided the Commissioner of Social
90 Services has not determined, during such eight-month period, that the
91 applicant's circumstances have changed so as to render the applicant
92 ineligible for program benefits. The Commissioner of Social Services
93 shall not make an eligibility determination for a recipient of program
94 benefits more than one time per eight-month period, except as
95 provided in subsection (f) of this section] prescribed by federal law.

96 [(2) On and after July 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Early Childhood
97 shall succeed the Commissioner of Social Services for the purpose of
98 making the eligibility determinations pursuant to subdivision (1) of
99 this subsection.]

100 (e) Within available appropriations, a recipient of program benefits
101 who takes unpaid leave from such recipient's employment due to the
102 birth or impending birth of a child shall be granted not more than six
103 weeks of payment eligibility during the leave if: (1) The recipient
104 intends to return to work at the end of the unpaid leave; (2) the
105 recipient verifies that eligibility is needed to prevent the loss of a slot
106 in a school-based program or licensed child care setting; and (3) the
107 child receiving child care services under the program continues to
108 attend the program during the recipient's leave.

109 [(f) (1) Not later than October 15, 2011, the Commissioner of Social
110 Services shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
111 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General
112 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
113 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies concerning eligibility
114 redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. Such report shall

115 include an analysis of overpayments of program benefits made by the
116 Department of Social Services and administrative costs incurred by the
117 department as a result of eligibility redeterminations made on an
118 eight-month basis. On and after October 15, 2011, and until June 30,
119 2014, the Commissioner of Social Services may make eligibility
120 redeterminations on a six-month basis if, after January 1, 2011, the
121 department's overpayments of program benefits have increased in
122 comparison with the period between January 1, 2010, and December
123 31, 2010, as a result of having an eight-month eligibility
124 redetermination period.

125 (2) On and after July 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
126 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall submit a report, in accordance
127 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
128 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
129 services and appropriations concerning eligibility redeterminations
130 made on an eight-month basis. Such report shall include an analysis of
131 overpayments of program benefits made by the office and
132 administrative costs incurred by the office as a result of eligibility
133 redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. On and after July 1,
134 2014, the commissioner may make eligibility redeterminations on a six-
135 month basis if the office's overpayments of program benefits have
136 increased in comparison with the period between January 1, 2010, and
137 December 31, 2010, as a result of having an eight-month eligibility
138 redetermination period.]

139 [(g)] (f) A provider under the child care subsidy program that
140 qualifies for eligibility and subsequently receives payment for child
141 care services for recipients under this section shall be reimbursed for
142 such services until informed by the office of the recipient's ineligibility.

143 [(h)] (g) All licensed child care providers and those providers
144 exempt from licensing shall provide the office with the following
145 information in order to maintain eligibility for reimbursement: (1) The
146 name, address, appropriate identification, Social Security number and
147 telephone number of the provider and all adults who work for or

148 reside at the location where care is provided; (2) the name and address
149 of the child's doctor, primary care provider and health insurance
150 company; (3) whether the child is immunized and has had health
151 screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic Screening,
152 Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC 1396d; and
153 (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

154 [(i)] (h) On or after July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall adopt
155 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
156 implement the provisions of this section.

157 [(j)] (i) The commissioner shall submit to the joint standing
158 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
159 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state
160 agencies a copy of the Child Care and Development Fund Plan that the
161 commissioner submits to the Administration for Children and Families
162 pursuant to federal law. The copy of the plan shall be submitted to the
163 committees not later than thirty days after submission of the plan to
164 the Administration for Children and Families."

165 Strike lines 644 and 645 in their entirety and insert the following in
166 lieu thereof:

167 "competitive capital grant account" which shall be a [separate,
168 nonlapsing account within the General Fund] capital projects fund.
169 The account shall"

170 Strike section 16 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu
171 thereof:

172 "Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Commissioner of Early
173 Childhood may resolve any disciplinary action against a licensee
174 pursuant to sections 19a-84 and 19a-87e of the general statutes, as
175 amended by this act, by accepting the voluntary surrender of the
176 license of such licensee."

177 Strike lines 950 to 952, inclusive, in their entirety

178 Strike section 19 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu
179 thereof:

180 "Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Any person or entity who is
181 the subject of an investigation or disciplinary action pursuant to
182 sections 19a-80f, 19a-84, 19a-87a, 19a-87e, as amended by this act, 19a-
183 423, as amended by this act, or 19a-429 of the general statutes, while
184 holding a license issued by the Office of Early Childhood or having
185 held such a license within eighteen months of the commencement of
186 such investigation or disciplinary action, shall be considered to hold a
187 valid license for purposes of such investigation or disciplinary action."

188 Strike sections 20 and 21 in their entirety and renumber the
189 remaining sections and internal references accordingly

190 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
191 internal references accordingly:

192 "Sec. 501. Subdivision (7) of subsection (b) of section 10-500 of the
193 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
194 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

195 (7) Developing [and implementing] a state-wide developmentally
196 appropriate kindergarten [assessment tool] entrance inventory that
197 measures a child's level of preparedness for kindergarten, but shall not
198 be used as a measurement tool for program accountability;"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	17b-749
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 501	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-500(b)(7)